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Letter dated 7 May 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 6 May 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tuluy TANÇ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 6 May 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 21, 27, 30 April and 4 May 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding violations of the airspace of the Republic" (A/52/875-S/1998/340, A/52/877-S/1998/348, A/52/880-S/1998/360 and A/52/885-S/1998/370, respectively).

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 14 April 1998 (A/52/873-S/1998/328). Since the present Greek Cypriot charges are of the same nature, they do not merit a detailed reply. I wish to reiterate, however, that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State over which the usurper Greek Cypriot regime in the South has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

This barrage of unfounded allegations by the Greek Cypriot side is aimed at providing a smokescreen for its policy of escalation and tension on the island. It is noteworthy, in this context, that the Greek Army Chief of Staff, Athanios Tzoganis, concluded a three-day visit to South Cyprus on 24 April 1998, during which he assured the Greek Cypriots that the so-called "joint military doctrine" will be expanded and stated that his departure from South Cyprus by way of flying out of the newly constructed "Andreas Papandreou" military airbase at Paphos symbolized Greece's commitment to the Greek Cypriot armed forces (Greek Cypriot press of 23 and 25 April 1998).

In a recent ceremony held in South Cyprus, Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, stated that the so-called "joint military doctrine" had added a new dimension to the Cyprus issue and praised the outgoing Commander of the Greek Cypriot National Guard, General Vorvolakos, for his efforts in materializing the "doctrine". For his part, Vorvolakos expressed his belief that "the way towards a political settlement and membership in the European Union passes through the barrel of guns and cannons, and through rocket-launchers", Vorvolakos further stated that, in the context of the "joint military doctrine", he was prepared to take up position in battle at the side of Mr. Clerides, whenever necessary (Greek Cypriot press of 29 April and 1 May 1998).

As a further provocation, the Greek Cypriot administration, which has destroyed all the parameters for a settlement in Cyprus through its unilateral application for membership in the European Union, in contravention of the 1960 Agreements, and which has raised the tension on the island to an all-time high through its decision to purchase the sophisticated S-300 missile system from Russia, has now also submitted an application for membership to the Western European Union. In doing so, with the active support of Greece, the Greek Cypriot side has taken yet another step in undermining the internal and external

balances established between the two peoples, on the one hand, and their respective motherlands Turkey and Greece, on the other, by the 1960 international Cyprus treaties.

This dangerous policy of escalation and tension being pursued by the Greek-Greek Cypriot camp, coupled with the destruction of the existing parameters for a settlement, poses a clear threat to peace and stability on the island, and the region at large. It is evident that the Greek Cypriot side has opted for confrontation rather than accommodation. All parties interested in a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus dispute must therefore press the Greek Cypriot administration to abandon this dangerous posture and seek a settlement based on the existing realities on the island.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus